



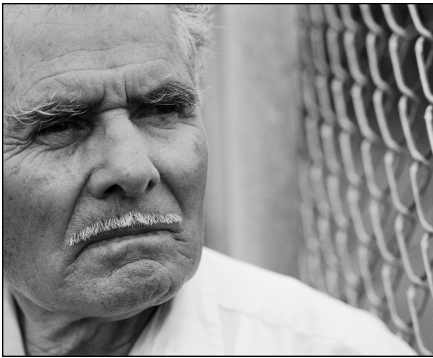
# WEST SPA Chronicle

A publication for friends and neighbors of the West Service Planning Area

Summer 2001

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## Promotores Program Increases Outreach to Latino Seniors



Westside service providers have long acknowledged the growing Latino older adult population and the need to provide culturally appropriate outreach to this group. Now, several providers, including the West SPA, Center

for Healthy Aging and Venice Family Clinic are working with Behavioral Health Services (BHS) to plan and implement an innovative health promotion and medicine education program for Latino seniors.

This exciting new project is based on a model whereby adult Latino volunteers are trained to work in their neighborhoods as health advocates. Promotores are individuals who are indigenous to the community; they are respected, trusted and valued for their insight and concern. They understand the local culture, ethnic values and beliefs that can often impede the effec-

tiveness of outside organizations. The use of promotores has been very effective in overcoming barriers to care faced by young and first-time Latina mothers.

The trained promotores will provide counseling and health education in disease prevention and medication management. They will conduct basic screening for high blood pressure and diabetes, and identify and make referrals to culturally appropriate westside providers. Promotores will educate Latino seniors of the important roles prevention and healthy lifestyle choices play to maintain optimal health as they age.

"A significant aspect of this approach is that we are not just training, but building the capacity of promotores and their communities to reduce barriers to services," says Debbie Levan, director of Senior Services at BHS.

Program development is already underway and focus groups have been held in targeted communities for baseline data to identify potential volunteers. BHS is developing and modifying training materials to be culturally sensitive and at appropriate literacy levels for the audience and submitted proposals to private foundations to fund the implementation phase of the project.

## West SPA Flu Immunization Schedule

Flu season typically begins in December and lasts through March. Flu shots will be given to those who meet the following criteria:

- Persons aged 65 and older
- Residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities with residents of any age who have chronic medical conditions
- Adults and children aged 6 months and older who have chronic pulmonary or cardiovascular disease, including asthma
- Adults and children aged 6 months and older and have required regular medical follow-up or hospitalization during the past year because of chronic metabolic diseases including diabetes mellitus, kidney dysfunction, blood disorders or immune system problems
- Children and teenagers (aged 6 months to 18 years) who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and therefore might be at risk for developing Reye Syndrome after influenza infection
- Women who will be in the second or third trimester during the influenza season

### Locations for receiving a flu shot are:

Israel Levin Senior Center, United Methodist Church, Westchester Senior Center, Roxbury Park, Pacific Palisades Women's Club, Santa Monica ARC, Culver City Senior Center and Felicia Mahood Senior Center. Contact Public Health Nursing at 310-998-3203 for dates and times.



## West Service Planning Area Selected Reportable Diseases (Cases)

Disease	Apr-Jun 01	Apr-Jun 00
AIDS	8	14
Amebiasis	1	6
Campylobacteriosis	28	47
Chlamydial Infections	256	272
Encephalitis	0	2
Gonorrhea	81	74
Hepatitis Type A	6	8
Hepatitis Type B	0	0
Hepatitis Type C	0	0
Measles	1	0
Meningitis	1	0
Meningococcal Infections	1	0
Non-gonococcal Urethritis	n/a	n/a
Pertussis	2	3
Salmonellosis	19	14
Shigellosis	13	7
Syphilis, primary & secondary	2	1
Syphilis, early latent (<1 yr.)	5	0
Tuberculosis	6	7

Data provided by DHS' Public Health programs: Acute Communicable Diseases, Data Collection & Analysis, HIV/Epidemiology, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Tuberculosis Control.

## West SPA Health Team

Area Medical Director:	Marsha Epstein, MD, MPH
Administrator:	Phillip L. Moore III, MPA
Nurse Manager:	Audrey Goto, RN, PHN
Health Educator:	Ammini Williams, MA, MPH
Epidemiology Analyst:	Farimah Fiali
Public Health Investigator:	Carolyn Weinrieb
	Ali Farjadi
Public Health Nurses:	Beryl Inouye, RN, PHN
	Liz Kane, RN, PHN
	Jennifer Kilburn, RN, PHN
	Alice Brummett, RN, PHN, NP
	Mary Singaus, RN, PHN
	Deanna Ssutu, RN, PHN
	Linda Flores, RN
Clinic Nurse:	Ella Okonkwo
Executive Secretary:	Rita Miller
Clerical Support:	Sonia Flores
Community Workers:	Yvette Veal
Registrar:	

**Chronicle** is a quarterly publication of the West Service Planning Area (SPA 5). Phillip Moore III, MPA., is Editor-in-Chief. For additional information call (310) 998-3223.

[www.lapublichealth.org/spa5/](http://www.lapublichealth.org/spa5/)

### Data Availability

Farimah Fiali recently joined the West SPA Health Team as our Epidemiology Analyst. She will assist the community with data requests and reports on chronic and communicable diseases. Farimah can be reached at 310-998-3220.



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# WEST SPA Chronicle

### Public Health Mission:

**To safeguard and improve the health of all Los Angeles County Residents.**